

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.All business or news letter and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
HERALD.

Volume XXXVI. No. 67

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

MILTON'S GARDEN, Broadway, and 13th street.—
ROMANCE AND REALITY.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
ROMANCE AND REALITY.LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 13 Broadway.—LINGARD
SIMPSON—DAVID'S LOVE. Matinee at 2.GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th and 9th sts.—
LES GEORGAIENNES.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE RICHELIEU OF
THE FUTURE. Matinee at 2.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE CROWN
PRINCE.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
SARATOGA. Matinee at 1.NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—SEEDS
IN DIRT AND SEEDS.

GLOBE THEATRE, 75 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, AC—AT THE WAR. Matinee at 2.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 254 St. between 5th and 6th sts.—
MUCH ADU ABOUT NOTHING.WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 25th st.—Performances
every afternoon and evening.MRS. F. E. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
ACROSS THE CONTINENT.SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS' HALL, 555 Broadway.—
NEURO MINISTERS, FAREWELL, BIRMINGHAM, &c.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 30 Bowery.—VARIETY
ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.THEATRE COMIQUE, 24 Broadway.—GRAND VOCAL
AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT.BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 224 St. between 5th
and 6th sts.—NEURO MINISTERS, FAREWELL, BIRMINGHAM, &c.BOOTH'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—BOOTH'S
KELLY & LLOYD'S MINISTERS.NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SCENES IN
THE RING, ACROBATS, &c. Matinee at 2.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, March 8, 1871.

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12—Advertisements.THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONERS attended
Mrs. Grant's reception yesterday. The crush
and jam of the occasion probably left them no
opportunity of noticing the republican sim-
plicity of the affair.A NEW DIVORCE BILL, allowing the party
against whom divorce is granted to remarry
after three years, has been reported in the
Assembly. In effect it gives an unhappy
married person a means of utilizing his own
infidelities.THE ERIE DIRECTORY BILL, made to include
the Centralized Hudson River Railways also,
was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Lewis
yesterday. It provides that at the next elec-
tion for directors in all these roads a full board
shall be chosen.BEN BUTLER, having drawn a back seat in
the House, persuaded a new and inexperienced
colored member, who had been more fortunate,
to exchange with him yesterday. That's his
old trick—keeping himself to the front at the
expense of the "nigger."SENATOR BRADLEY has introduced a bill in the
State Senate to amend the Police act so that
captains and sergeants can be retired without
cause upon half pay by a unanimous vote of
the Police Board. The evident intent of the
bill is to get rid of well-meaning and well-
behaved officers, of whom the force has a good
many, who are not intelligent and energetic
enough for their positions; and if it is not used
in the interest of much worse persons who can
"run" a ward or a district the aim is a highly
commendable one.EX-CONGRESSMAN ORTH is not to have the
Berlin mission. His greatest claim to it
seems to have been that his constituents have
not returned him to Congress. If such reason-
ing as this becomes a part of the political sys-
tem of the administration we shall have the
families of all our Congressional candidates on
the republican side electioneering against
them, because "if pa is not elected he'll be
sent to Europe," and the ladies of all our fam-
ilies would rather go to Europe than Wash-
ington.THE PRESS AND OUR LEGISLATORS.—An
article in another column shows that fifty-five
heavy hand grant job bills were upon the
Speaker's table in the House of Representa-
tives early in the session, and that of these
only two made their way through both houses
and became laws. This unusual honesty and
vigilance on the part of our Congressmen is
to be attributed in a great degree, if not
altogether, to the influence of an honest and
fearless press. The HERALD, early in the
session, showed up the character of these
windmills and a number of other intricate jobs
which no member of the House but Mr. Dawes
would have had the patience to investigate,
and the House could not have acted otherwise
than it did in slaughtering them outright.
There is great hope of honest legislation so
long as we have an honest press.The President and Congress—The Prob-
abilities of an Extra Session.

The prevailing desire among the members of
the two houses of Congress seems to be
to bring the session to a close, in order
that they may go home. Having disposed of
the annual appropriation bills, and having
voted the needed right of way, public lands,
&c., to the Southern Pacific Railroad, the last
of the Pacific through lines, and having pro-
vided a new election law and a funding sys-
tem, very few, even of the republicans of the
House or the Senate, can understand why they
should longer be detained in Washington.
The President, however, from the executive
programme in hand, looks at this matter of an
adjournment in a totally different light. The
Joint High Commission is in session, and
upon international questions of great mag-
nitude its action within a month or two may
require the presence of the Senate. The St.
Domingo investigating Commission may within
a month return to Washington with a report
on annexation, suggesting the expediency of
immediate action on the part of both houses;
and from the Darien exploring expedition we
may soon have a report so favorable touching
the discovery of an interoceanic canal route
as to justify some special legislation, with
liberal appropriations from Congress.

With regard to the Joint High Commission,
the fisheries question presses upon it for im-
mediate action. The fishing season is fast
approaching, and it is desirable to avoid the
"little unpleasantnesses" which occurred last
summer between our Yankee fishermen and
her Britannic Majesty's provincials of Nova
Scotia, Cape Breton island and Newfoundland,
in reference to the headland rights and the
privileges of baling and drying the fish.
Rather than submit any longer to the petty
annoyances and the seizures, confiscations and
exclusions which they suffered last summer,
the fishermen of Cape Cod are "prepared to
fight for their rights," and General Butler is
pledged to back them up in Congress. It is
understood that the Joint High Commission
will proceed at once to the settlement of this
business, and it may be settled in the form of
a separate treaty upon this simple subject, in
order that it may be ratified as soon as pos-
sible. Here, then, is a matter which may
require the presence at least of the Senate in
April. All the other subjects with which this
Joint Commission are charged will probably
be adjusted early in June, and justice to our
citizens concerned in those Alabama claims
may require some early action from both
houses on the comprehensive treaty stipula-
tions which are expected and which will no
doubt be adopted.

✓ The St. Domingo Commission, under the
resolution of Congress, are charged to inquire
into the political and financial condition of the
republic of Dominica, and into the popular
sentiment down there on annexation, and as to
the population and the sanitary condition of
the island and its storms and earthquakes, and
as to its agricultural, mineral and commercial
resources, capabilities and advantages, and so on;
and upon their report Congress is to act
upon the question of annexation. The Com-
mission will probably return in May; for we
think they will hardly remain on the island till
June, and their report will doubtless be in favor
of annexation on the general terms proposed
by President Baez, as a great bargain in one
of the very richest pieces of tropical real estate
that is to be found on the face of the globe.
Unquestionably in this enterprise the
President desires that Congress shall strike
while the iron is hot, and so if the two houses
are not in session with the return of the Com-
mission from the island he may call them
together. We think he will hardly hesitate,
or ought to hesitate, upon this matter, if with
an enthusiastic report from honest "Old Ben
Wade" he can present to Congress a glowing
report from Commander Selfridge of a glorious
route discovered for a cheap through-cut
Darien ship canal. In this connection the
magnificent island of St. Domingo, begin-
ning with the mixed republic of
Dominica (two-thirds of the island), will
be a very cheap acquisition upon the terms
suggested. The jobs of the speculators
concerned can be cut down to a reasonable
margin, and as to the dangers of war with
Hayti, the coal-black end of the island, that is
all moonshine. Fred Douglass, Sr., and
Downing, the oysterman, with a fair contin-
gent fund, can settle it with those warlike
Haytian niggers in three days in favor of an-
nexation.

Behold, then, the magnificent Presidential
programme of General Grant embraced in
these three grand ideas—the Joint High Com-
mission, the St. Domingo Commission and the
Darien isthmus canal route exploring expedi-
tion. A magnificent programme, indeed, for
it contemplates—first, a settlement in a solid
treaty of peace of all our outstanding accounts
against and differences with England; second-
ly, the acquisition of the richest of all the
West India islands, capable of supplying the
whole population of the United States with all
they want and all they may require in the
prime articles of sugar, coffee, chocolate, the
finest tobacco and tropical fruits and spices of
all kinds; thirdly—and this is the grandest
idea of all—in connection with the half-way
house of St. Domingo—a ship canal across the
isthmus of Darien, which will bring the bulk
of the trade of the West Indies and of Central
and South America, and of the Pacific coast
and oceans, and of the Oriental nations and
islands of Asia, through the golden gate of
California and New York to our wharves and
piers.

Upon each and all of these grand undertak-
ings, we say, there may be good reasons for
calling a special session of Congress; but there
is yet another subject upon which General
Grant is evidently resolved to bring the demo-
cracy to face the music, and that subject is
the political outrages of those mysterious
bodies of assassins, the Southern Ku Klux
Klans. In pursuance of a resolution adopted
in reference to the President's wishes a special
committee of the Senate, of which Mr. Morton
is chairman, has been for some weeks and is
still engaged in the collection of testimony to
show that the Southern democracy have
adopted many devices of violence and terror-
ism to drive the blacks from the polls, and
that the Ku Klux Klans, with all their hor-
rible atrocities, are among these devices of the
Southern democratic party. It is given out
that we may expect, before long, some start-
ling revelations upon this subject from Senator

Morton and his committee, and that the object
is to make up a case from facts, dates, names
and places, upon which to pass a new law of
Congress for the protection of the Southern
blacks in the exercise of their right to vote.

A Washington correspondent informs us,
upon this matter, that "Senator Morton and
other prominent friends of the President, who
look at it in a purely party light, are convinced
that, without further Congressional action, the
South will be hopelessly democratic in 1872,"
and that, therefore, Senator Morton and his
coworkers in Congress will make a vigorous
fight to prolong this session until they
shall have finished their investigation
of the Ku Klux. The President, in
very significant terms, referred in his
last annual Message to the defeat of the will
of the people in certain Southern elections by
measures of violence; and there can be no
doubt that he is convinced that the Ku Klux
must be regulated, or that they will regulate the
Southern elections more and more hereafter
to suit themselves, and especially in 1872.
The present session, then, will probably be
extended so as to cover this business of
Senator Morton's investigating committee.
Otherwise there will be another added to the
probabilities of an extra session under the
President's call.

This Ku Klux question seems to be a small
affair in comparison with the Joint High Com-
mission, the St. Domingo Commission and the
Darien Expedition; but if half or a tithe that
is said of these Ku Klux atrocities in the
Southern elections of the last year or two is
true, the suppression of such outrages against
law and order and negro suffrage becomes
also a question of the first magnitude. Our
opinion has been, however, that we have had
enough of Southern reconstruction, and that
the remedies still needed in behalf of the
fourteenth and fifteenth amendments may be
safely left to time and experience. But
Senator Morton, from his investigation, may
know more upon this subject than we
know, and we await his report. We still hold,
however, that upon the three aforesaid grand
ideas of General Grant's international and
commercial programme, he may find it ex-
pedient before the end of the summer to call
an extra session of Congress, and should the
occasion, in his judgment, warrant it, let him
not hesitate, for the country will support him
in his call.

The Pope to the Sacred College.

His Holiness Pius the Ninth continues active
in the discharge of his Pontifical duties, not-
withstanding his age, his physical infirmities
and mental anxieties. We are informed to-
day, by telegraph from Rome, forwarded
through the Atlantic cable, that the Pontiff
has just held a consistory in the Vatican, dur-
ing which he delivered an allocution to the
members of the Sacred College. The expres-
sion is decided and, apparently, quite ani-
mated. The Pope concentrates, as it were,
before the hierarchical chiefs of the Catholic
Church his sentence of condemnation of the
policy of the Italian government towards
Rome. He rejects the idea of guarantees for
the exercise of his spiritual power by the
Italian Parliament, and in this he repeats his
defence of the rights of his successors in the
Holy See, for the guardianship of which it
must be said that he has been most nervously
vigilant from the very first moment of Napo-
leon's negotiations through Edgar Ney, years
since, with the present occupant of the chair
of the Fisherman. Pope Pius the Ninth la-
ments, again, the occurrence of the Franco-
Prussian war, and, finally, thanks the whole
Catholic world for the religious devotion
which has been exhibited in the Church and
the attentions which have been paid person-
ally to himself as its visible and earthly
ruler. Pope Pius the Ninth is almost a sleep-
less shepherd of the flock.

The Movement Against Senator Sumner.

The opposition which has existed in the
Senate against Senator Sumner continuing at
the head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
ever since his heated St. Domingo speech
against the administration has come up in the
Senatorial caucus for the rearrangement of
the committees. So far the action of the
caucus is not absolutely inimical to Mr. Sum-
ner, and his friends claim that the committee
of the caucus is actually friendly to him.
However that may be, it will not be a very
gracious thing to oust him. He has served
continuously in the Senate for twenty years,
and has been continuously chairman of the
Foreign Relations Committee for eight years,
and notwithstanding a factiousness and a
restlessness under restraint that are to be
attributed mainly to his high feeding he has
been consistently faithful, untiring and
American in all his Senatorial career. His
course in regard to St. Domingo is the most
unreasonable link that he has ever had in his
head, and the last vote upon that interesting
question shows that he can be successfully
combated on that subject by the friends of the
administration without any necessity for oust-
ing him from his chairmanship. When it comes
to a question whether the chairman of the
Foreign Relations Committee should be purely
American, letting considerations of the good
and the honor of his country stand above all
other considerations, even if these other con-
siderations imply war, Sumner's record on the
very Alabama claims that will come before
him and his committee in the shape of a
treaty ere long, for final discussion, and, per-
haps, for final confirmation or rejection, is the
truest and soundest of any Senator's in the
Senate.

ENGLAND'S POLICY DURING THE FRANCO-
PRUSSIAN WAR.—Having demolished Austria
and France, Count Bismarck is preparing to
use up Great Britain. Our special corre-
spondent reports, on good authority, that he
will soon issue a circular reviewing the history
and events of the late war, in which he will
severely comment, almost to offensiveness, on
the attitude of England during the struggle,
characterizing the policy of the British gov-
ernment as "tricky and evasive." Will this
circular be the initiatory movement in a Ger-
man-Russian crusade against the East? En-
gland will doubtless take the castigation
administered by Bismarck in a becoming
spirit of meekness and resignation—at least
outwardly. It will gall her, however, to re-
ceive such treatment at the hands of the same
Germany that she saved from political ven-
salage to France little more than half a cen-
tury ago.

The September Government of France
Called to Account.

The cable telegrams which we publish this
morning from France tell us that MM. Louis
Blanc, Victor Hugo and others of that ilk
made a demand yesterday for the detention
of the members of the September government
until they have given an account of their acts
up to the capitulation of Paris. This move-
ment of the part of those mild-minded legis-
lators serves to indicate the storm that is brew-
ing in the very midst of the radical camp.
Since M. Gambetta concluded his star
engagement on the stage of France
in the character of Minister of the Interior,
with almost unlimited power, he has kept
quietly in the background, biding his time
until the occasion presented itself for him to
step forth from his solitude. As he was a
prominent member of the September govern-
ment, we now expect to see him summoned to
appear, and possibly answer to the charge of
high treason, for, according to the demand of
M. Delescluz, these madmen contemplate
going to that extent in their proceed-
ings. M. Favre, General Trochu and others
may also expect to be remembered by this
investigating group of irreconcilable radicals
who aim to rule France at the present time.
We hope they will go on with their good work,
because the sooner they "play themselves out"
the better it will be for the nation and the
republic. Let them quarrel among them-
selves as much as they please. There is an
old adage which says that when certain peo-
ple fall out certain other people get their due.
This may prove also to be the case in
France. These noisy, blatant demagogues
who bellow loudest about liberty are them-
selves the worst tyrants, and men totally unfit
for government. These fellows now advertise
their patriotism by calling the September gov-
ernment to account for its acts. So be it.
We fear very much that unless some change
takes place among the French legislators they
will prove themselves as incompetent in legis-
lation as the generals of France have shown
themselves inefficient in the field. Poor
France!

Discharge of Captain Peabody and Ac-
quittal of Captain Grindle.

We publish to-day the decision of Com-
missioner Shields, discharging Captain Peabody
and his mates, Mayo and Shields, who had
been accused of having cruelly and inhumanly
treated a number of their colored crew on
board the ship Neptune on a voyage from
Liverpool to New York. This case, which
has given rise to much favorable and unfavor-
able comment, deserves a few words of part-
ing notice, now that it is, we suppose, about
to die out of the public memory. When the
circumstances of the alleged brutality were
first brought to light they looked exceedingly
bad for the defendants; but as time and in-
vestigation went on a different aspect was given
to the matter.

The point sought to be established by the
prosecution was that, after the black sailors
got frozen by the cold which was experienced
when the vessel arrived upon the coast of
America, they were sent to work for which
they were quite incapable, owing to their suffer-
ing from frostbites. If this fact remained un-
explained the Captain would have been left
without a leg to stand on; but it appears now,
not only from the Captain's testimony, but
also from the admissions of the men themselves,
that, while laboring under the pain caused by
being frostbitten, the Captain bandaged their
hands and distributed among them shirts,
drawers, shoes and vests. The Captain al-
leges—and this view of the case is taken by
the Commissioner—that the work he sent the
men to do after they were frozen was entirely
from necessity, and not from choice; that all
the crew, colored and white, had to be at the
pumps for three days to save the vessel from
sinking; in fact, that it was imperative on
him to demand such service from the colored
seamen as going upon the lookout, pulling
ropes and taking a turn at the pumps.

In a grave accusation of this character the
Commissioner, who is sworn to determine ac-
cording to the testimony, could pay no heed
to mere statements or appeals to sympathy.
But we think that the Commissioner, upon the
evidence, has arrived at a just conclusion in
discharging the defendants. This decision
may not please persons who have based their
notions of the case upon statements, but it
will certainly be acceptable to those who have
read details of the facts placed before the
Commissioner.

The HERALD having given the fullest
publicity to this case, as well as to that of
Captain Grindle, of the ship Old Colony, as
the statements and evidence appeared for and
against, may fairly venture a word of advice.
It is that the dismissal of the complaint by the
Commissioner in the case of Captain Peabody
and the acquittal by the jury in that of Grindle
shall not be accepted as an assurance of
impunity to encourage them in similar acts
of alleged cruelty in the future; but that the
narrow escape both had from the clutches of
the law, to say nothing of the public reproba-
tion they inevitably draw down upon their
names, will lead them to be forbearing and
merciful to the poor helots of the ocean
over whom they exercise such unlimited power.

ENFORCE THE LAW would be a good maxim
for genial, honest Tom Murphy to adopt in the
Custom House. There seems to be awful
grievances there, and especially in the ap-
praisers' department. The law governing
that branch is said to be very unsatisfactory;
but Collector Murphy says that the law, such
as it is, is continually abused. Then why does
not the good-natured Collector, for the sake of
his own peace of mind, his restless conscience,
and his comfortable sleep at nights, stop the
abuses of the law? That he can get the Custom
House out of the middle which evidently
exists there is not to be expected. A Con-
gressional committee having taken the thread
in hand, all hope of unravelling the tangle
of mystery is, of course, departed.

A RUSSIAN named Frank Bannen, in a quar-
rel with a girl, at her mistress' residence,
No. 223 East Forty-first street, threw a pot of
hot tea at her and scalded the little child of
her mistress, which she had in her arms, so
fearfully that death ensued. What power is
there in the law to protect society against a
brute who has so little control over his tem-
per? Such a man should not be allowed at
large any more than a raving maniac.

Congress Yesterday—The Adjournment
Question.

The concurrent resolution adopted by the
House on Saturday, for the adjournment of
Congress to-day, was not favorably acted upon
in the Senate, but was laid upon the table.
This action, we presume, was in deference to
the wish of the President, expressed to the
joint committee which waited upon him to
notify him that Congress was in session and
ready to receive any communication he might
make, that the day for final adjournment might
not be fixed during the present week, as, al-
though he had no message to send to Congress
now, he might have one to send next week.
Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, interprets that
intimation as meaning that the President in-
tends to press on Congress the necessity of
further legislation to prevent Ku Klux
outrages in the South, whereas the generally
received opinion in Washington is that the
delay which the President asks for is in the
interest of his St. Domingo policy. Which-
ever of these constructions may be the cor-
rect one, or whether it be that both subjects
were in the President's mind when he made
the suggestion, the Senate at least manifested
a willingness to be governed by his wish in
regard to the adjournment question, and laid
the House resolution on the table, from which
it can be taken up at any time and amended
by substituting another day for that fixed by
the House.

The discussion in the House yesterday on a
resolution for the appointment of the regular
committees indicates a very general deter-
mination on the part of the members of
that body not to take any steps
that might tend towards opening up
general legislation at present. The Speaker
himself showed a very decided leaning in that
direction, in expressing the desire that he
should not be called upon to appoint the stand-
ing committees before the December session.
Mr. Dawes, the leader of the House, showed
himself decidedly adverse to the idea of pro-
ceeding to business now, and in favor of
returning to the old system, under which Con-
gress did not organize until December, and the
democrats chimed in with the general senti-
ment. Mr. Butler alone dissented from it;
but all that even he wanted was that Congress
should pass his Ku Klux bill and then adjourn.
There were some casual expressions in the
debate in regard to the propriety of passing
some revenue measures, such as the repeal of
the income tax and of the duties on coal and
salt; but these were merely unbecome allu-
sions, having no real value or meaning. The
upshot of it all makes it plain that Congress
will adjourn very soon without entering on
any general legislation, and perhaps without
regard either to the President's Dominican
policy or to Mr. Butler's plan for extinguisht-
ing the Ku Klux Klan.

Negro Testimony in Kentucky.

During the war Kentucky as "a neutral
State" gave more trouble than all the "rebel
States" together. To be sure it had given
birth both to Abe Lincoln and to Jeff Davis—
to the President of the Southern confederacy
and the President of the United States. The
bitter family feuds which the war occasioned
can be accounted for, if not justified. But
now that the "civil war" is over it is becom-
ing insufferable that murder should any longer
deter immigration and prevent the prosperity
to which the soil and the climate of Kentucky
entitle that fertile and attractive State.
Why should narrow local prejudices be so
much excited by the fact that a negro mail
agent is employed on the Louisville and
Frankfort Railroad? Why should Judge
Fryor be compelled to address the Grand Jury
of Frankfort county, on the 27th ult., in such
language as he used in regard to the recent
defiance of law by a band of armed men who
had rescued the murderer of a negro from
jail? It is simply because Kentucky has not
yet fairly and squarely recognized the positive
facts legally attested by the fourteenth and the
fifteenth amendments to the constitution of the
United States. These amendments guarantee
the civil and political rights of the enfranchised
negro. Neither Kentucky nor any other
"border State" can now prevent the exercise
of these rights. The Louisville Courier is
sound on this point; and the sooner all
prejudices are dismissed and accomplished
facts are acknowledged by the people of Ken-
tucky the better will it be for one of the
nobler States in the Union and for the Union
itself.

AFFAIRS IN PARIS.—Although our special
correspondent in Paris reports the city quiet
the general tenor of his despatches indicates
the existence of apprehensions of violence.
The denial of a report that the government
intends taking away the guns held by the riot-
ers is something curious. We would feel more
assured to hear that the report was confirmed,
for it would prove that the government was
confident in its strength and was determined to
compel obedience to law. It is to be feared that
the present quiet in Paris is the result of a com-
promise between the authorities and the tur-
bulent elements. General De Paladines, it is
true, has issued an address to the National
Guards declaring that all disorders will be
promptly suppressed, and it may be that he
possesses the power to enforce his declaration.
The disarming of the National Guards and the
removal of the artillery from Montmartre
would, however, do more to pacify Paris and
assure order in France than all the addresses
or compromises which have been or may be
delivered or made.

REPEAL OF THE TAX ON BONDS AND MORT-
GAGES.—We notice that a bill has been intro-
duced into our Legislature to repeal the tax
on bonds and mortgages. This is to be re-
garded as a wise and salutary measure. The
present tax on bonds and mortgages very
rarely falls upon the opulent property owner
or capitalist, but upon the poor man who is
obliged to raise money by mortgaging his
little estate or goods and chattels. The
repeal of the tax, therefore, will be great
relief to the many and impose no extra bur-
den upon the few.

SEVERAL FOREIGN SHIPOWNERS, anxious
to receive new American registers, are taking
out registers under the Dominican govern-
ment so as to be turned over to us with the
other property belonging to that island in the
event of annexation. This is not a bad way
of circumventing the suicidal policy of Con-
gress.

Annual Report of Health Officer Carnochan.

We are as ready to applaud the conduct of
public officials when it is worthy of praise as
we are fearless in denouncing their back-
slidings. Therefore we have no difficulty in
turning from the consideration of Dr. Carno-
chan's action in the matter of the manure
dumping nuisance, which a sense of duty com-
pelled us to criticize somewhat sharply, to the
annual report of that distinguished member of
the medical profession as Health Officer of the
port of New York. It is a document replete
with interest, and instructive to a degree that
must command much attention. Dr. Carnochan
handles the subject of quarantine in masterly
style, for he has evidently studied it, and
gives in a nutshell its proper relations with the
interests of commerce and the preservation of
the public health. This consideration—one of
the most vital in the whole question—is treated
with force and perspicuity. The Health Officer
argues for a systematic working of quarantine
based on well known scientific laws. Here the
right chord has been struck, and when it is
considered that until a year since this impor-
tant department had been so very much mixed
and warring in system that both the commercial
community and the general public were disas-
tressed with its operations, the improvements
introduced last summer and those now pro-
posed would seem to meet with public com-
mendation.

In pursuance of this specific purpose Dr.
Carnochan refers to the laws which govern
quarantinable diseases—for instance, their
origin, period of incubation, progress and
termination. In the next place, he submits
the consideration, which should have a con-
clusive influence on the Legislature, that the
necessary facilities should be provided to
carry out the system of quarantine with the
facts above, so that the interests of commerce
may be harmonized with the public safety, im-
posing upon the former as few restraints as
possible, still keeping the main object in view.
It may be difficult to harmonize such antago-
nisms, but with the facilities for that character
of administration of quarantine which Dr. Car-
nochan desires it may be effected, and, while
the commerce of the port of New York will
not be burdened, the health of its citizens may
be assured.

Warehouses in the upper and lower bays,
where vessels from infected ports can dis-
charge and store their merchandise, are asked
for. They are required to make up the general
complement which is necessary for a perfect
quarantine system. This matter should at
once have attention, and the proper buildings
be constructed before next summer. Without
them there is a difficulty in enforcing the wise
and salutary regulations of quarantine. With
them New York and vicinity could be far
better protected against the importation of
contagious and infectious diseases, and, there-
fore, mutually benefited with the merchant,
as the period of detention of infected cargoes
would be greatly lessened. It now remains
for the Legislature to act promptly and ener-
getically in providing these warehouses, as a
little reflection will convince its intelligent
members that the matter is one of vital im-
portance.

It is gratifying to note at this time that
with the vigilance of the Quarantine authori-
ties during the unusual season of 1870, in
which 365 vessels arrived in this harbor from
ports infected with yellow fever, and on which,
in ports of departure, on the passage or in
quarantine, there were 470 cases of sickness
and 107 deaths of this fearful disease, "not a
single case which occurred in New York or
Brooklyn can be traced to vessels that com-
plied with Quarantine regulations."

There are many points in the report worthy
of consideration—especially the facility with
which false bills of health can be procured—
but these facts in themselves speak well for
the good management of the Quarantine De-
partment under its new chief.

THE DUTY ON EXPORTED TOBACCO.—Our
tobacco shippers have been laboring under a
grievous burden, from which they should
be immediately relieved by the action of
Congress. Under the present revenue laws
tobacco shipped to foreign ports is allowed to
pass free of duty, but the shipper has to give
bonds in double the amount of the tax to fur-
nish a landing certificate or proof that the ar-
ticle did actually arrive at the port of destina-
tion. Therefore, if a cargo of tobacco be
shipped from this port to Australia or any
other foreign port, and the vessel is wrecked
on the passage, the shipper has no indemnifi-
cation, and not being able, of course, to pro-
duce a landing certificate is obliged to pay the
double tax, which frequently amounts to more
than the value of the tobacco itself. The omis-
sion to provide for an exigency like this